security of the tourists, Ministry of Tourism has advised all the State Governments/Union Territories Administrations to deploy Tourist Police. Ministry of Tourism has also circulated guidelines for formation of Tourist Security Organization(s) comprising Ex-Servicemen, for the safety and security of tourists to State Governments/Union Territory administrations.

Review of security cover to VIPs

2780. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reviewed the security cover provided to over 100 VIPs in relation to threat perception being faced by them, in order to curb the expenditure;

(b) if so, the outcome of such review; and

(c) the decision taken in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The security arrangements for all VIPs/central protectees are reviewed periodically in two high level committees in MHA which is an ongoing process.

Diversion of MPF Funds

2781. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds allocated to each State Government for modernization of police forces are being diverted for other purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the funds so far utilized in Andhra Pradesh for modernization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Under the Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces (MPF Scheme), funds are allocated to the States for various items of expenditure approved in the annual action plans, like mobility, modern weaponry, communication system, training infrastructure facilities, forensic science facilities, strengthening of intelligence branches, security equipment, construction of buildings for police stations/posts, construction of residential buildings for lower level police personnel, etc. On the basis of audit reports, some instances have come to notice where funds meant for a particular item under the Scheme have been inadvertently or otherwise utilized for purchase of another item either not approved in the action plan or other approved items under the scheme requiring prior approval or in another year requiring revalidation. For example, it was found that in the case of Andhra Pradesh, funds allocated against the specific activities were incurred on the training of newly recruited police staff; Punjab Police has purchased office equipments which need prior approval of the competent authority and in the case of Bihar, funds were spent on purchase of vehicles in the year 2008-09 from the allocation of funds of previous year requiring

approval/revalidation. In order to have a proper check on recurrence of such events, a system of Concurrent audit on a quarterly basis has been introduced from last quarter of 2008-09 and is in place.

(c) The central funds released for the period 2000-01 to 2008-09 under the MPF Scheme and utilization reported by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, as on 29-11-2008 is as under :-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Central funds released	utilized	Unspent
2000-01	72.02	72.02	0
2001-02	77.20	77.20	0
2002-03	81.32	81.32	0
2003-04	69.46	69.46	0
2004-05	79.93	79.93	0
2005-06	101.41	101.41	0
2006-07	88.12	88.12	0
2007-08	87.34	NA	NA
2008-09	83.83	NA	NA

NA : Not available

The Utilization Certificate in respect of funds released in 2007-08 is still awaited from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. The Utilization Certificate for 2008-09 from the State Government would become due on 01-04-2010.

Granting special status to a part of erstwhile state of Hyderabad

2782. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the people of Karnataka have been requesting for a special status to the region which was a part of erstwhile State of Hyderabad before 1956, under Atricle 371 of the Constitution at par with Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh which was also a part of the then State of Hyderabad and has been given a special status under Article 371D of the Constitution; and

(b) if so, by when the necessary Constitutional amendment is proposed to be introduced in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) A proposal was received from Government of Karnataka to amend Article 371 of the Constitution of India to provide region-wise reservation in employment and admission to educational institutions in Karnataka, including Hyderabad-Karnataka region, on the lines of provisions in Article 371 D of the Constitution of India in respect of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) No definite timeframe can be specified in this regard.